

PRIVATE.

ONTARIO
GENERAL ELECTIONS,
1890.

Instructions to Scrutineers.

The prospects of the Liberals carrying the country were never so bright, but every constituency as to which there is the least doubt may be won or lost by a few votes, and it is hoped you will use your utmost endeavors to make Liberal success certain, and remember that if each scrutineer in the riding gets one vote added to the Reform list or one vote taken off the Conservative list, that of itself would make a handsome majority, or may turn the election. See that you secure at least one vote.

Return these instructions with list of objections taken by you to the Secretary of the Riding Reform Association as soon after the election as possible.

LINDSAY, ONT.:
THE CANADIAN POST BOOK AND JOB DEP'T., KENT'ST.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SCRUTINEERS

AT THE

Ontario Elections, 1890.

1. Read these instructions carefully, keep them strictly private, and on no account let a Conservative see them. Also make yourself acquainted with the Ontario Elections Act, R. S. O., cap. 9. If you are afraid to swear hostile voters don't act.

2. The sections cited throughout these instructions are sections of the Ontario Elections Act, and should the Deputy-Returning Officer doubt the validity of any objections you may refer him to the section cited in the copy of the Election Act which he will have.

BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE POLL.

3. You should get a written authority to act as agent for the Reform candidate, and make the declaration of secrecy required by the Statute (Section 149, Form 31, as in Statute of 1890).

4. Obtain from the Committee a list of voters with names marked whether Reform, Conservative or Doubtful, and go over same carefully and ascertain parties to be sworn.

5. If you do not know the voters you should have another person with you who does, if possible, so as to avoid personation, or arrange with the outside workers to let you know of any likely attempt to personation.

6. See that proper vehicles are provided for bringing votes to the poll, and that the outside agents understand their duty.

7. There should be two or three outside men who should know the voters and where they reside, and they should direct the conveyances who to go for, and see that all friendly votes are polled before two o'clock.

8. Be at the polling place before 9 o'clock, and see that the Ballot Box is empty before being sealed. It must be done in your presence. (Sec. 9), and see that your watch agrees with the D. R. O's.

DURING THE DAY.

9. Early in the morning establish the principle that neither the Deputy Returning Officer nor the Tory Scrutineer is going to bully you or Reform voters, and let them understand you know the law.

10. Check off each voter on your list as he votes. You can inform the canvassers whether a person has or has not voted. There is nothing in the declaration of secrecy to prevent you ; (Sec. 148).

11. Do not leave the Polling place during the day, as if you do some person may vote who ought to have been sworn or objected to, and you let the opposition side gain a vote ; or the Ballot Box may be stuffed.

12. Make a note of all the objections you make on the blank space left for that purpose on the back hereof.

13. See that the outside men are doing their duty, and that the conveyances are kept going.

14. A person may vote who has a certificate from the Returning Officer (not a deputy) and has been actually engaged as Deputy-Returning Officer, Poll Clerk or Agent during the day ; and object to any person voting on certificate unless he has been "actually engaged" at the Polling place for the best part of the day. (See Sec. 87, ss. 2), but he must take the oath. (Sec. 87, ss. 5).

WHEN A PERSON COMES TO VOTE.

15. *If a Reform man or Doubtful :*

(a) See that the Deputy-Returning Officer puts his initials on the back of the ballot paper and nothing else. (Sec. 90, ss. 7).

(b) Do not allow any questions to be put to voter by Conservative Agent. All he can do is to ask to have the voter sworn.

(c) Do not allow his vote to be rejected on account of the misspelling of the name or a wrong Christian name so long as he can swear he is the person *named or intended to be named* on the list. (See form of oath).

(d) See that the voter understands how to mark his **X** and where to put it. (Sec. 98).

(e) If he cannot mark his Ballot paper see that the Deputy-Returning Officer does so for him correctly. It must be done in your presence. (Sec. 101).

(f) If a Conservative Agent asks to have any man sworn and he hesitates to take the oath, have it read and explained to him, and induce him to take it if possible, and do not allow any threats, suggestions or questions to be put by the Conservative Agent.

(g) If he spoils his Ballot paper in any way, see that he gets another. (Sec. 104).

16. *If a Conservative :*

(a) Be prompt and see if his name is on the Voters' List and see if he should be sworn, as after an elector receives his Ballot paper he cannot be sworn. If you know the reason for swearing him, explain it to him, and point out the consequences if he perjures himself.

17. PERSONS TO BE SWORN.

(a) Persons marked on the list furnished you to be sworn.

(b) Any Conservative who has a vote at any other Polling place, and who votes out of the division in which he resides.

(c) Any Conservative whom you have any reason to suspect has either given or taken a bribe.

(d) Any Conservative whose identity you doubt or who gives a wrong Christian name, or a name which does not sound the same as on the list.

(e) Never swear a Reform or doubtful voter, and do not swear any voter unless you have reasonable grounds therefor, because he will always remember it, may consider it an insult, and may never vote Reform at any future election on that account.

(f) If a person once refuses to swear, he cannot afterwards take the oath, and must not be allowed to vote. (Sec. 90, ss. 6).

(g) See that the Deputy-Returning Officer puts the proper oath and reads it correctly. Watch the form of oath while he reads it.

COUNTING THE VOTES.

18. If there is only one scrutineer get one of the outside men to come in and help you at the counting. Two agents for each candidate can be present. (Sec. 10).

19. Watch the Deputy-Returning Officer carefully and see that he counts the ballots properly. A good way to do when there are only two candidates is to put them in separate piles and count them as you would bank bills. By ticking off the votes on a paper, as is usually done, you may make mistakes ; the Deputy-Returning Officer may call out wrong and you cannot watch the ballots to see that they are properly marked.

20. See that the Deputy-Returning Officer takes the ballots out of the box singly, and opens them up so that they can be seen by the Agents present. Do not allow him to turn them out on the table and then count them back loosely into the box, as if this is tried, the intention is to cheat you in counting the ballots.

21. If possible arrange to have all objected ballots laid aside before you argue for their rejection or validity, so that you may see how the objections will affect the count.

22. Ballots Marked as Follows are Good :

(a) A plain cross within the division which contains the name of the candidates. (Sec. 98.)

(b) An irregular mark in the nature of a cross, so long as it does not lose the form of a cross.

(c) A cross with a line beside it.

(d) A double cross.

(e) Any inadvertent mark in addition to a cross.

(f) A cross with strokes across the ends.

23. Ballots Marked as Follows are Bad.

(a) Making a stroke instead of a cross.

(b) Two single strokes not crossing.

(c) Any mark which contains in itself a means of identifying the voter, such as his initials or some mark known as being used by him. (Sec. 106, ss. 2.)

24. The general principle in deciding as to the validity of ballots is that if a ballot is marked with a proper cross within the compartment containing the candidate's name, then it is good, unless the voter has put upon it his initials, or some mark known to be used by him. An extra stroke or cross does not matter, but if there is not a cross but only strokes not crossing, then it is bad.

25. If the Returning Officer has omitted to initial a Ballot, or if he has put any mark on it, that will not invalidate it. (Sec. 106, ss. 2)

26. Object to any Ballot for Reform candidate being rejected on any ground, and object to any Ballot being counted for Conservative candidate which has anything but one plain cross, and have a note made of your objection.

27. Make a note of all the objections you raise to ballots being counted or rejected, and make fac-similes of all doubtful ballots, if possible, as in case the election is close they will be very valuable in deciding whether or not to have a scrutiny before the County Judge.

28. As soon as the ballots are counted insist on their being sealed up in packages as required by Section 110, and do not leave till this is done, otherwise the ballots may be tampered with.

29. See that the number of ballot papers found in the box correspond with the number of persons who have voted according to the list of the Deputy-Returning Officer, and see that the number, according to your list, agrees with his. In case of any disagreement make a note of it.

30. Obtain from the Deputy-Returning Officer a certificate of the number of votes for each candidate. (Sec. 109).

31. *Don't hurry off as soon as ballots are counted*, but act as directed in paragraphs 27, 28 and 29 above. If you neglect this you fail in your most important duty and give great chances for frauds being committed.

